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[Despatch Abstract.]

AGRICULTURE : PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY OF GREEN FODDER : STEPS ALREADY TAKEN AND PROPOSED TO BE TAKEN BY THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT : INFORMATION FURNISHED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
Development Department

Fort St. George,
Letter (Ms) No. 6038.Dev. Dated, the 8th December 1948.

From

W.R.S. Sattianadhan, Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary to Government.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Ministry of Agriculture, NEW DELHI.

Sir,

Sub: AGRICULTURE - Production and supply of green fodder - Steps already taken and proposed to be taken by the Madras Government.
Ref: Mr. Bery's letter No. F1.52/48-L dated 7th March 1948

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I am directed to state that the following steps have so far been taken by the Madras Government for the production and supply of green fodder:

1. TRIALS OF DIFFERENT KINDS OF GRADDES: The need for taking adequate steps to frow more fodder crops in this Province was stressed as early as in September 1945 by the Dairy Development Adviser to the Government of India during his visist to Madras. The Madras Government had to postpone the question till 1947 in view of the importance of the production of food crops which required prior consideration. Before embarking on a comprehensive scheme for the production of fooder throughout the province, they considered that trials of different kinds of grasses which are likely to prove useful to the milch cattle should be conducted and accordingly sanctioned a scheme by which fodder crops like maize, fodder cholam, pillipeasara, thin napier, guinea grass, lucerena etc., will be grown by the Agriculture Department in plots of land. A copy of their proceedings No. 495 Dev. dated the 3rd February 1948 is enclosed for information. The results of the trials are awaited. An all out drive for intensive production of these fodder grasses will be considered after the results of the trial are known.

2. DEMONSTRATION CENTRES FOR GROWING PERENNIAL GRASSES: The following three important factors contirbute to the success of a scheme for the perennial production of green fodder:-

(i) Suitable land for cultivation
(ii) Adequate facilities for irrigation of such land; and
(iii) Manure.

Since these facilities can easily be commanded by municipal councils and panchayat boards, it it psorposed to ask them to open grass farms and utilise their waste water and manure for the purpose. To start with, each of the municipalities will open one acre grass farms and once they begin to function, they will be extended to any limit required based on the local demand. The details of the scheme are under consideration in consultation with the municipal councils.

A similar scheme for starting an experimental fodder farm on the outskirts of the City of Madras, utilyzing the city sewage is also under consideration of the Government.

3. ESTABLISHMENT OF A RESERACH STATION: The Director of Agriculture, Madras, and the Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee

have recommended to Government a scheme for the establishment of a research station at Coimbatore with a sub.station at Bapatla for conducting research work on fodder crops and grasses. This is under consideration. The question of appointing an Agronomist to study the problems of rural and animal husbandry is also under consideration.

The Madras Government have also forwarded a scheme on Animal Nutrition to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in January 1948. The technical programme of the scheme includes inter alia the following items of work:-

(a) Investigation on the chemical composition of grasses grown in different soils and climatic conditions;

(b) Nurtirion value of legumes suitable for introduction in the pastrues to improve their nutritive value;

(c) Special investigation on the hill type of pastrues and soils on which they grow with a view to development of dairy industry in the province;

(d) Investigation on the nutritive value, digestible co-efficient and mineral content of cultivated millet fodder crops and cereal straws;

(d) Effect of manuring and cultivation on the composition of fodder grasses.

The sanction of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research to the scheme is awaited.

4. CONSTITUTION OF MILK BOARD: Cattle fodder scarcity has been acute in this province especially in the famine affected areas of the ceded Districts. In order to tide over the periodical fodder scarcity, the Government have been spending large sums of money. Even after spending large sum amounts for relief work, no satisfactory result could be achieved. It was therefore suggested to Government that it would be preferable to set up a permanent expert committee called a Milk Board which would perform the duties of the Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee and Land Utilisation Board and also examine the question of increasing the productivity of the land, elimination of the fodder scarcity and all aspects of milk production, distribution, etc., Preliminary to the constitution of this Board, the Government have appointed to officers one each from the Forest and Agricultural Departments to examine all the materials regarding fodder production and make constructive suggestions. The results of the investigations are awaited. The question of constituting a Milk Board for the province will be considered after the report of the two Special Officers is received.

5. GROWING OF FODDER TREES ON PORAMBOKE AND GOVERNMENT WASTE LANDS: On the recommendations made by the Provincial Fodder Graxing Committee, the Government have permitted growing of fodder trees on porambokes lands and waste lands at their disposal on certain conditions. Copies of their proceedings No. 2414 Rev.dated the 6th October 1948 and No. 4939 Dev. dated the 25th September 1948 are enclosed for information.

6. ROTATIONAL GRAXING IN PANCHAYAT AND RESERVED FORESTS: The Government have directed that rotational graxing should be adopted in Panchayat forests wherever possible. The question of introducing the system in the reserved forests is under consideration.

7. SUPPLY OF FODDER TO THE MADRAS CO-OPERATIVE MILK SUPPLY UNION: One private individual of Poonamalle, near Madras, has volunteered to raise certain fodder crops like cholam, maiz etc., in his estate of about 200 acres with the assistance gi

the Agricultural Department and supply them to the Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union, Ayyanavaram. The matter is under consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/. W.R.S. SATTIANADHAN
Secretary to Government.

Copy to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue)
Copy to the Fodder and Grazing Committee, (Board of Revenue).
Copy to the Director of Agriculture.
Copy to the Chief Conservator of Forests.
Copy to the Director of Veterinary Services.
Copy to the Revenue Department.
Copy to the Food Department.
Copy to the Local Administration Department.

/True copy/

Sk.

Office Assistant,
Madras Record Office, Egmore.